

October 8, 1958

Dr. Barton Childs
Department of Pediatrics
John Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore 5, Md.

Dear Bart:

Thanks very much for your kind words.

Yes, we are definitely planning to make accommodation for post-doctoral trainees with a medical background. To begin with, the research areas that we will be most active in will be the genetics of microorganisms and some aspects of genetics of tissue cells. But I have a hunch that these may not be the worst training grounds even for people going into more clinical aspects of genetics later on. At any rate I think there are also serious deficiencies in a purely biometrical approach. We are going to have to do the best we can to make a broad program. Thanks for the word about Bender. We will definitely have to keep him in mind although I suspect from what you say that he may be pretty well fixed for the time being. Your suggestions about the medical department are much appreciated and I will keep them in mind for the occasion when they may be of some use in developing my own viewpoint.

I still don't know myself exactly how the pediatrics situation is being resolved and my hands are really tied until this has been settled on the spot. You know my personal sentiments on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/jp